

OBITUARY

John David Bradley, 1920 – 2004

Like many lepidopterists John Bradley began his interest in insects during his childhood. Born in the Wimbledon area of south-west London on 24 January 1920, he left school at 16 to become a laboratory assistant in bacteriology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He then joined the British Museum (Natural History) as a Preparator in 1938, but the war interrupted and he spent six years in the armed forces serving in North Africa, Italy and Austria.



He returned to the BM(NH) after the war and began work on the curation of Meyrick's collection and from then on his emphasis was on microlepidoptera, in due time specialising in the Tortricidae. Together with E. L. Martin he produced an illustrated checklist of British Tortricidae in 1956-59. In 1964, he joined the Commonwealth Institute of Entomology, still based in the British Museum (Natural History). His main task was identifying microlepidoptera sent in from many parts of the world, and so he became familiar with many pest species. He published some 120

papers between 1950 and 2000 of which many were on tropical pests, but best known are his works with Gerry Tremewan and Arthur Smith in *British Tortricoid Moths*, published by the Ray Society, on whose council he served. He was editor of the *Entomologist's Gazette* from 1960 until late 1964.

John worked on a revision of Kloet & Hincks' *Checklist of British Lepidoptera*, taking care of the microlepidoptera whilst Steve Fletcher did the macros and the new list was published in 1972. His interest in the British fauna was shown by continued work on checklists producing "The Log Book" in 1979 (*A Recorder's Log Book or label list of British Butterflies and Moths*. Harley Books) and then a privately published Indexed list in 1986 which was rather spoilt by many errors in the process of publication. Subsequent checklists in 1998 and 2000 have proved very useful and his numbers introduced with the *Log Book* have proved invaluable in an increasingly computerised world. On his desk was a list entitled "2004", even though he was admitted to hospital for the last time on 2 January; he died two days later on 4 January 2004.

For amateur microlepidopterists John was a fountain of knowledge, with resources of the BM(NH) at his disposal. He took trouble to keep us informed of changes in the nomenclature and was always ready to help – even if he appeared a little shy at first. In addition he was often keen to get involved with fieldwork, joining expeditions to the Burren with Robin Mere and Teddy Pelham-Clinton; as if to reinforce this a picture of the Burren Green *Calamia tridens occidentalis* Cockayne was painted over his garage at Osterley! A survey of Buckingham Palace gardens began in 1960 and he identified the microlepidoptera trapped there until the time when he left London after his retirement from the Museum in about 1980. As a full time employee at the Natural History Museum he was not permitted to keep a personal collection, but within the Museum he built up a collection of micros from Buckingham Palace, as well as from the Burren. He also developed a collection of microlepidoptera of economic importance. After he left London and settled in Somerset he became involved with the Somerset Moth Group and made his experience and expertise available to them, although poor health prevented him from getting out into the field in recent years.

As a scientist in the BM(NH) John had dealings with entomologists all over the world. He appears in the "Acknowledgements" section of almost every work on microlepidoptera in recent decades and was warmly regarded by many colleagues; his friend Prof Dalibor Povolný in the Czech Republic enabled his studies to be submitted to the Charles University, Prague where he was awarded a Ph.D. degree.

As well as being a knowledgeable entomologist John was a very likeable person with a dry sense of humour. He will be missed by many as a friend as well as a colleague. Our sympathy is extended to his family: Jane, Michael and David.

David Agassiz